

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

<b>As of:</b> August 29, 2011
<b>Received:</b> August 24, 2011
<b>Status:</b> Pending_Post
<b>Tracking No.</b> 80eeaebb
<b>Comments Due:</b> September 30, 2011
<b>Submission Type:</b> Web

**Docket:** EBSA-2010-0018

Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

**Comment On:** EBSA-2010-0018-0002

Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

**Document:** EBSA-2010-0018-DRAFT-0048

Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

---

## Submitter Information

---

### General Comment

I am a member of HSLDA and I agree 100% with their comments: HSLDA vigorously oppose the illegally narrow religious exemption created in the Interim Final Rule. This exemption requires that a religious organization show the following in order to receive an exemption:

- (1) The inculcation of religious values is the purpose of this organization;
- (2) The organization primarily employs persons who share the religious tenets of the organization;
- (3) The organization serves primarily persons who share the religious tenets of the organization; and
- (4) The organization is a nonprofit organization as described in section 6033(a)(1) and section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

This proposed religious exemption would apply almost exclusively only to houses of worship, and possibly some denominational seminaries. HSLDA & I believe that the religious exemption should be broadened.

The Problem: religious and conscientious objections to paying for certain drugs.

The Proposed Religious Exemption violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The Proposed Religious Exemption does not protect ordinary employers who have sincerely held religious beliefs.

The Proposed Religious Exemption does not protect religious organizations.

The Proposed Religious Exemption specifically only applies to churches and other houses of worship.

Conclusion: protect the freedom of religion and the freedom of conscience for ALL Americans!